The Excise Commissioner and appointment of Petty Officers.

249. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many Petty Officers the present Excise Commissioner has appointed since he took charge of the Commissionership?

(*b*) how many of them are Ezhavas and how many others;

(*c*) how many persons he has promoted as Petty Officers and

(*d*) how many of them are Ezhavas and how many others?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) 46.

(*b*) Two of them are Ezhavas and the rest belong to other communities.

(*c*) 33.

(*d*) None of them is an Ezhava.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether in the Quilon Range there is one Mr. Madhavan Pillai, Second Grade peon, who has been acting as a petty officer for a very long time?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I cannot say, Sir; I doubt whether that arises as a supplementary question.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether his claim was overlooked when a permanent vacancy occurred and whether a person from outside the department was appointed in that vacancy?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): In view of the answer to the other question, this does not arise.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether there is one Mr. M. P. Govinda Pillai in the Quilon Range who is a permanent first grade peon, who acted as a petty officer for a long time?

PRESIDENT: What is the object of these questions, Mr. Nair?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) Many of the first grade and second grade peons have acted for a very long time as petty officers. But when permanent vacancies occurred in the department, the Excise Commissioner has overlooked their claims mercilessly and imported others from outside the department and appointed them in those permanent vacancies.

PRESIDENT: If I were you, I should have put that question straight without wandering over all these minute details.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether Government are aware that the Excise Commissioner has overlooked the claims of very many acting petty officers and appointed outsiders when permanent vacancies occurred?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Government are not aware.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether the claim of one Mr. M. P. Govinda Pillai, who was an acting petty officer, was overlooked when a permanent vacancy occurred?

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PRESIDENT: I do not think it is right on the part of the Honourable member, in view of the answer given already, to go on multiplying instances. The answer is that Government are not aware that the Excise Commissioner overlooked the claims of men acting in the department and imported outsiders.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, I wanted to bring to the notice of the House specific instances in which the Excise Commissioner has overlooked the claims of acting men.

PRESIDENT: That may be true. Your question must therefore be put in a different way. All that you should ask is—Are the Government aware that in such and such cases the Excise Commissioner has overlooked the claims of acting men?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether in the case of one Mr. Madhavan Pillai, in the Quilon Range, of one Mr. M. P. Govinda Pillai, of one Mr. K. Nilakanta Pillai, of one Mr. Parameswaran Asari and in the case of many others who were acting petty officers, the Excise Commissioner has overlooked their claims when permanent vacancies occurred and appointed outsiders in those vacancies?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): If the member had sent in all the names I would have collected the information. The acting vacancies are filled up by Assistant Excise Commissioners by promoting men in the department. I do not always get information about such vacancies and the way in which they are filled up.

PRESIDENT: Government have no information as these appointments are made by the Assistant Excise Commissioners. Is that the answer?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, Sir.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether the Excise Commissioner has taken up the power of the appointment of even the peons from the Assistant Excise Commissioners?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The power of appointment of peons is vested by Government order in the Excise Commissioner alone.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Excise Commissioner has taken away the power of appointment of petty officers from the Assistant Excise Commissioners?

PRESIDENT: The member says that the Excise Commissioner has no right in the matter but that Government have vested the Excise Commissioner with those powers.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether Government have given this right to the Excise Commissioner?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The power of making permanent appointments and initial appointments as petty officers is also given to the Excise Commissioner. The Assistant Excise Commissioners can only give acting promotions to men already in service.

PRESIDENT: They have not got the right to make initial appointments. Is that what you mean?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, Sir.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): In the face of the answer given to me just now that it is in the power of the Excise Commissioner to appoint petty officers, may I know from the Government whether the Excise Commissioner has appointed outsiders as petty officers overlooking the claims of acting persons?

MR. C.O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No, Sir. There is no question of overlooking claims. Acting vacancies of petty officers are generally filled up by Assistant Commissioners by giving promotions to peons in their respective Divisions. When temporary or permanent vacancies occur, they are filled up by the Excise Commissioner. The claims of qualified and competent peons in all the Divisions are then considered along with applications from qualified outsiders. As such vacancies are comparatively few, all the peons who are given acting vacancies of petty officers by the Assistant Excise Commissioners may not get permanent or temporary places.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know from the member how, while the power of appointment vests with the Excise Commissioner, the Assistant Excise Commissioners, according to the Excise Commissioner, made various appointments?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): They can give grade promotions among the peons and also acting promotions as petty officers.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I take it that the Assistant Excise Commissioners have not made any fresh appointments as petty officers?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. They cannot appoint outsiders as petty officers.

Transfers of Excise Peons and Petty Officers.

250. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of peons and petty officers the Excise Commissioner has transferred from one Division to another during the course of the year 1109 till the end of Medom 1109; and

(*b*) whether the transfers were effected as a sort of punishment to the persons who were transferred?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): (*a*) 115 peons and 53 petty officers.

(*b*) In the case of 5 peons alone, the transfers were effected as a sort of punishment.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member why those peons, other than the five, were transferred?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): They were transferred in the exigencies of service.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether those peons were transferred to places very far from their native place?

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